

Listing of Claims:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A device for retrieval of a foreign body from a vessel of a patient, said device comprising: a flexibly resilient central shaft having an axial channel for receiving a guidewire therein; balloon support means extending from said central shaft and having a free end spaced therefrom; and inflatable balloon means provided at said free end and arranged to expand inwardly towards said central shaft upon inflation; whereby in use said device is positioned such that a foreign body to be retrieved is located between said free end and said central shaft, and said balloon means is subsequently inflated to bear against the foreign body and hold it against said central shaft, such that the combined foreign body and device can be withdrawn from the vessel.

17. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the foreign body is an undeployed stent; and whereby in use said balloon means is inflated to bear against the outer circumference of the stent and hold the stent against said central shaft.

18. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said inflatable balloon means is arranged so as in use to bear against the stent at two or more spaced locations around the circumference thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said central shaft is flexibly resilient and has a tip extending beyond said free end of said balloon support means.

20. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said inflatable balloon means is generally annular.

21. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said balloon support means is a generally cylindrical sleeve extending axially of the central shaft.

22. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 19, wherein said central shaft is generally cylindrical, having a uniform diameter along most of its length, and a short tapering section towards its tip.

23. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a hub at an end of said central shaft distal from said inflatable balloon means.

24. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 23, wherein said hub has a port in fluid communication with said inflatable balloon means to enable inflation thereof by injection of an inflation fluid.

25. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said port is adapted to receive a syringe from which the inflation fluid is to be delivered.

26. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said inflation fluid is of radiographic contrast.

27. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein inflation of said inflatable balloon means is effected by the injection of a volume of inflation fluid in the range of from 2 to 5 ml.

28. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, said device being adapted for delivery into and recovery from a vessel by means of a guiding catheter.

29. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a guiding catheter for delivery of said device into a vessel, and subsequent recovery of said device therefrom.

30. (Previously Presented) A device for retrieval of an undeployed stent from a vessel of a patient, which device comprises: a central shaft having an axial channel for receiving an angioplasty guidewire therein; balloon support means extending from said central shaft and having a free end spaced therefrom; and inflatable balloon means provided at said free end and arranged to expand inwardly towards said central shaft upon inflation; whereby in use the device is positioned such that an undeployed stent is located between said free end and said central shaft, and said balloon means is subsequently

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inflated to bear against the outer circumference of the stent and hold the stent against said central shaft, such that the combined stent and device can be withdrawn from the vessel.